

Bee Gees

THE Bee Gees are one of those all-too-few groups who struck it lucky without too much effort.

Originally they were a trio—twins Robin and Maurice Gibb plus their brother Barry. They began, in Manchester, when very young but the family emigrated to Australia in 1958 and the lads had to start building a reputation all over again. Within months they were on Australian radio. Then they got a down-under recording contract: their first single came out in January 1963 when Barry was 14 and the twins were 12. Within a couple of years they were making local hit records.

But they figured they couldn't get very far in a country with such a small population and so they decided to return to Britain. Just on the off-chance they sent a couple of their records to Brian Epstein—and they were signed by his agency, with Robert Stigwood (an Australian) acting as personal manager. Colin Petersen and Vince Melouney—two young Australian musicians—joined them and made the Bee Gees into a fully-fledged group.

With their first record made in England (since they arrived in February) they've established a solid reputation: the song, which they wrote themselves, was "New York Mining Disaster, 1941" and it entered the charts on both sides of the Atlantic.

Now they're in America on their first, promotional, visit. In particular, they're out to further the sales of their new disc, "To Love Somebody".

Just before they left they told me how much they were looking forward to seeing America. "In fact," said Maurice, "we've enjoyed every minute of our career so far. Nothing has been too hard or too boring."

"That's right," confirmed Vince, "it's been our aim to have a good time wherever we've appeared because we think that only by having a good time ourselves can we give audiences a good time. When we came to this country we—the Bee Gees—were completely unknown but in America we already have a reputation because our record got in their charts. This should make things easy for us."

"We're expecting to find America much the same as England but probably the pop scene there will be more exciting," said Colin.

They'll be looking at American girls with particular interest. Barry, Maurice and Robin (the English ones) were too discreet to say much, but the two Australians—Colin and Vince—had a lot to say about how much more

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attractive they'd found English girls than the Australian girls they'd left behind.

Said Colin: "Australian girls aren't so creative—so far. They all tend to look alike. Besides, English girls tend to have better figures, be prettier and more feminine."

Said Vince: "See one Australian girl and you've seen the lot! Anyway, there just aren't enough of them to give an impression of variety. Over here you see thousands and thousands of beautifully dressed girls. You can go on looking for ever."

Well, USA is even more populous, so we look forward to hearing The Bee Gees report on how American girls rate.

DAVID GRIFFITHS